

Regulated Species Updates

Maui Island -Public Comments

Comments gathered from:

Maui Public meeting (January 2009)

Various interviews (January 2009 to May 2009)

Interviews at the Maui Earth Day Event (April 2009)

Some comments were also collected by the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council (MNMRC) and by Danielle Kornfeind (NARs Ranger)

Summarized by Russell Sparks

Results

Priority Species

Uhu

No night spearing, and no spearing on SCUBA. No use of nets, or traps. Increase the size limit and create bag limits (2 fish possession limit).

Large Goatfish

Remove market value (no sale), add moana kali, and munu to the restrictions, and create a bag/possession limit of (2 each) for kumu, moana kali, and munu.

Jacks

Strong support for a marine recreational sports fish designation with no sales allowed. Slot limits; pole fisher limits (2 poles per person); increased size limits; and possible season closures were all proposed. Bag limits of 5-6 with no more than 2 ulua's proposed. Weekly ulua bag limits also discussed.

Results

Comments on Minimum Sizes

1. For the most part the public was ok with minimum size regulations for almost every species that is currently harvested.
2. They supported using the L50 for these size regulations, but felt set size categories should be used and it should be kept as simple as possible. (ie. Sizes like 5", 7", 10", 12", 14", or 16")
3. There was some limited support for slot limits, but most did not like this approach.
4. Overall, nearly everyone felt that minimum size regulations would not really help protect the nearshore fish populations, but bag limits and seasons would be more effective.

Results

Comments on bag limits

1. Public supports the idea of bag limits
2. Most people felt that the bag limits should apply to all fishers the same (commercial, subsistence, or recreational).
3. Suggested limits seemed to fall into four categories (2 fish, 5-6 fish, 20 fish, 50 fish)
4. Only a few folks suggested total bag limits, but when asked about the idea many seemed to support it including DOCARE.
5. Several people suggested the concept of possession limits instead of bag limits (enforcement concerns).

Results

Suggested Bag Limit Examples

Highly supported

Suggested by some

- Most Restrictive (2 fish): uhu, kumu, moana kali, munu, awa, oio, ulua, mu, nohu, uku.
- Less Restrictive (5-6 fish): papio, moi, uku, mullet, nenu, naso tangs, large surgeons (palani & pualu, naenae), small goatfish (moana, weke, weke ula, etc.)
- Proactive protections (20 fish): menpachi, aholehole, small surgeons (manini, kole, maikoiko, pakuikui), small goatfish, nenu, oama.
- Small fish (50 fish): oama, halalu, nehu (1 quart)

Alternative: total catch limit of 25, with some 2 & 5 fish limits as well.

Results

What should be regulated?

No need to regulate awaawa (ladyfish), but all others could be regulated with at least minimum size rules.

Suggested Additions:

Nabeta (Razor wrasse) and Po'o pa'a (Hawkfish)

Results

Commercial Vs. Recreational/subsistence

- Nearly everyone surveyed or who provided comments was against special exemptions for commercial fishers. Rules should apply the same to commercial and/or recreational fishers.
- Most folks also felt that reef fish species should not be allowed to be commercially harvested and sold at all.
- One commercial nearshore net fisher provided the following comments:
 - Commercial fishers provide fish to those who can't catch their own fish.
 - Strict bag limits will mean no-one will have enough fish to share, and that only fishermen will have fish to eat.
 - A better plan would make more use of "Kapu Seasons" instead of bag and size limits.

Results

Hawaiian Subsistence / Cultural take

- Many Hawaiian fishing practitioners liked the idea of “Kapu Seasons”.
- Some felt marine managed areas were a good approach, but only with the direct consultation and/or request of the practitioners in the area.
- Many Hawaiians from remote/small fishing communities wanted very restrictive fishing regulations.

Results

General Resource Management Suggestions

- No scuba spearfishing allowed
- Higher fines and stricter penalties for violators
- Publicize natural resource violations in the local papers (shame offenders)
- More use of seasonal restrictions “Kapu Seasons”
- No night fishing and/or scoop netting for Oama
- More fish enhancement / stock enhancement projects
- Protect estuaries (make them off limits to all fishing)
- Increase the CMLS fee to \$500 or more
- More enforcement (especially at night, weekends, and holidays)
- Create an environmental court to deal with violators of fishery laws
- Use the informers fee to encourage reporting of violations by the public
- Create a recreational fishing license
- Require a fishing license for take of all species of marine organisms except for the take of alien species
- Prohibit illegal buying of marine resources as well as sales
- Create more and larger no-take reserves (but exempt cultural practices within these areas)
- Create more herbivore protection areas (some suggest the entire leeward coast of Maui)-YIKES
- Provide special protection for all schooling species of fish
- No harvest of marine life with any of the following; fish traps, dive gear, wetsuits, SCUBA, and/or dive lights
- Have flexible seasonal closures with DAR staff monitoring fish stocks and making closure decisions
- Create slot limits for necessary species of fish
- Ban all fish feeding